



# Poonindie Early Childhood Centre

## 3.0 WATER SAFETY POLICY

**Rationale:** The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the preschool environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

**Aims:** To ensure that the centre will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards.

Children's safety and wellbeing will: be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and drinking.

**Procedure:** To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, ponds, clam shells, buckets, pooling water, water troughs and other water hazards the Nominated Supervisor will;

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, ponds, clam shells, buckets, pooling water, water troughs and other water hazards, the centre and staff will;

- Not install a swimming pool or wading pool on the premises.
- Closely supervise/monitor children near any water at all times—within arm's length (within 1-2 metres).
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour
- Higher adult/child ratios

- Ensure that water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe 3cm level. Do not leave buckets, water play trough or any other water hazards unsupervised in the preschool premises. **Empty after use and cover water trough.**
- All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
- Store equipment to prevent collection of water. Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers (E.g. mud kitchen).
- \* Buckets of water used during cleaning after craft or throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an adult while in use, and emptied immediately and cleaned thoroughly after use.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times (kitchen mains tap, not rain water tap).
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber (e.g. making tea potions).
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in approved thermal mug, or if not in a thermos mug then all hot drinks need to stay in the kitchen area **WITH THE DOOR CLOSED AND LATCHED**. During special events, children are to sit away from hot drinks on the supervised mat e.g. Mothers day High Tea.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focussed upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- Keep CPR guide next to phone in the kitchen.
- At all times, when children are present, there must be at least one contact staff member with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises. It is best practice for all contact staff to hold current approved First aid Certificates. All contact staff are required to keep first aid qualifications up to date.

### Evaluation:

- Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.

***Review Date: 26/3/24***

***Next review 2026***